with RBI, a provisional liquidator had been appointed by the Madras High Court for the Madras Motor Finance & Guarantee Company Ltd. on an application made by the Bank of India Finance Ltd.

(c) Reserve Bank of India has not prescribed any reporting system for frauds by finance companies.

(d) Any irregulaarities noticed during inspections are followed up and action is taken as per law.

Complaints of Custom Officials

4396. SHRI HARIN PATHAK : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether some complaints regarding harassment of foreign diplomats by the customs officials at Indira Gandhi International Airport have been received by the Government;

(b) if so the details thereof during the last two years and the current year, so far; and

(c) the action taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) to (c). Yes, Sir. This Ministry had received a letter from the Chief of Protocol, Ministry of External Affairs in November, 1995 to the effect that some foreign missions had reported non-cooperative behaviour by customs officials posted at Indira Gandhi International Airport. The main complaint was that the diplomats who were holding photo identity cards issued by the Airport Security were not allowed to enter the customs area meant for arrival of passengers.

The Central Board of Excise and Customs got the matter verified and restored the said facilities. There has been no further incidence of this nature.

World Trade Orgnisation meet in Singapore

4397. SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether India was isolated at the World Trade Orgnisation Ministerial Meeting in Singapore on the issue of giving equal treatment to the multinationl companies;

(b) if so, the stand taken by India at the meeting; and

(c) the consensus that emerged from the deliberations of the WTO meet?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH) : (a) to (c). There was no specific proposal under consideration at the World Trade Organisation (WTO) Ministerial Conference in Singapore for giving equal treatment to the multinational companies.

However, during the Singapore Ministerial Conference and in the preparatory process leading to the Conference, some developed countries had proposed the inclusion of discussion on a multilateral agreement on investment in the WTO. India had strongly opposed this proposal maintaining that a separate discussion on this issue was not necessary as Article 9 of the Agreement on Trade Related Investment Measures (TRIMS) provides for a review of the operation of this Agreement not later than the year 1999, in the course of which review it shall be considered whether the Agreement should be complemented with provisions on investment policy and competition policy. India's concerned in this area was fully taken on board, and it was agreed that two Working Groups will be established, one to examine the relationship between trade and investment, and the other between trade and competition policy including anti-competitive practices, having regard to the existing WTO provisions, including under the TRIMs Agreements.

[Translation]

Unsettled Claims Pending in PSUs

4398. SHRI ANNASAHIB M.K. PATIL : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the number of unsettled claims in Public Sector Undertakings (PSUs) under his Ministry have increased steeply during the last five years;

(b) if so, the details of such pending claims for over 1 year to 2 years, 2 to 3 years, 3 to 5 years and 5 years and above and the total amount involved in unsettled claims and the number of cases referred for Arbitratiion, undertaking-wise;

(c) the details of cases settled, years-wise and undertaking-wise; and

(d) the steps proposed to be taken to tackle the problem?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH) : (a) to (d). Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Export of Horticulture Items

4399. SHRI ANANT KUMAR : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) the India's share in the world trade of horticulture products;

(b) the total quantity of horticulture products exported and foreign exchange earned therefrom during each of the last three years;

(c) whether the private sector has desired to invest in this sector;

(d) if so, the details thereof;